Cambodia

Cambodia-India Bilateral Trade		*Tourist traffic between India & Cambodia*	
Year	Bilateral Trade (In US$m)	Year	Tourist Traffic (From both sides)
1999-2000	8.09	1999	2219
2000-2001	9.15	2000	2157
2001-2002 (April to December 2001)	9.34	2001	3664

(d) Bilateral trade and tourism between India and Singapore as well as between India and Cambodia is expected to go up significantly during the period 2002-2003.

American help for victims of attack on American Centre

4588. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) Whether the US Government has offered to help relatives of cops killed in American Centre attack in Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ensure that the next of kin of victims killed while guarding the American Centre is benefited by the offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) No, Sir. Government is not aware of any such offer of help by the U.S. Government;

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Police verification for passports

4589. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:
DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The normal time taken/prescribed to get the police verification done for issuing the Passports to persons whose verifications are required from two or more places; and

(b) The action taken by Passport authorities in issuing passports if verification reports are not received within stipulated time from police authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The guidelines issued to the State Governments in this regard are that police verification reports should be sent within a period of four weeks from the date of the reference from the Regional Passport Offices. However, the actual time taken in police verification differs from state to state.

(b) All Passport Officers hold regular meetings with the state level police officials to discuss and bring to their attention the cases where police verification reports are delayed. Because of the security reasons, Passports are being issued on police report overdue basis in10 Passport offices only out of the 28 Passport offices. Such Passport offices issue Passports on police report overdue basis after 35 days of making the reference to the respective police authorities. In other states Passports are issued only after police verification report is received.

Impact of communal carnage in Gujarat on India's Image

4590. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the international image of India has been badly tarnished following the continued communal carnage in Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details of effective measures Government are contemplating to recover the lost image?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) The disturbances in Gujarat have received considerable coverage in the international media. Such media coverage has ranged from balanced analysis critical comment.

(b) Government and its Missions abroad are undertaking proactive measures to project information on the efforts to restore law and order in affected areas and steps taken to provide relief in